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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,027	03/08/2005	Hiroki Matsui	P70460US0	5455

136 7590 09/12/2006

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EXAMINER

PATEL, VISHAL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3673

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/527,027	MATSUI, HIROKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vishal Patel	3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/6/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/6/05 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the open-air side" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the inner side" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
5. Claim 1/4 and 3/4 recites the limitation "the inner side" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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7. Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reinhardt et al (US. 6,520,506 B2).

Reinhardt discloses a sealing apparatus comprising an attachment portion attached to one member (housing) of two members (housing and shaft 5) that are arranged to be relatively movable, a sealing lip (lip 3 in figure 3) extending from the attachment portion to the other member to be slidably in sealing contact with the other member (shaft 5), a dust lip (9) extending to the other member to be slidably in contact with the other member while being tilted toward an open-air side from the attachment portion on the open-air side of the sealing lip, the sealing lip is provided to have an inner side contact angle (angle beta) which is an angle not smaller than an open-air side contact angle (angle alpha). The sealing lip has an extending direction that is tilted not less to the open-air side than the middle of the inner side and the open-air side (figure 3). The sealing lip has the inner side contact angle which is substantially equal to the open-air side contact angle and has the extending direction which is substantially the middle of the inner side and the open-air side and has a sectional shape which is symmetric relative to the line of the extending direction (as shown in figure 3 near 11 and 12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 3 and 3/4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinhart in view of Mizuno Koichiro (JP 2002-098163).

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Reinhart discloses the invention substantially as claimed above but fails to disclose that the dust lip is a double seal having two parts. Koichiro teaches to have a primary sealing lip (lip that is closest to the cap) and a dust lip that is a dual seal having two parts (dual seal parts as shown in figures). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to configure the seal of Reinhart to have dual seal having two parts for the dust lip as taught by Koichiro, to provide a dynamic dust seal or to provide a redundant and backup seal (inherent teaching for providing dual seal).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kanazaki teaches to have sealing lip having angles as claimed by applicant, Gardner teaches to have angles that are equal and sealing lip being symmetrical, Edlund teaches to have large angle on the fluid side relative to the air side, Kortgen teaches to have sealing lip that has angles as claimed by applicant and Otto.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VP
September 5, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vishal Patel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vishal Patel
Primary Examiner
Tech. Center 3600